

News

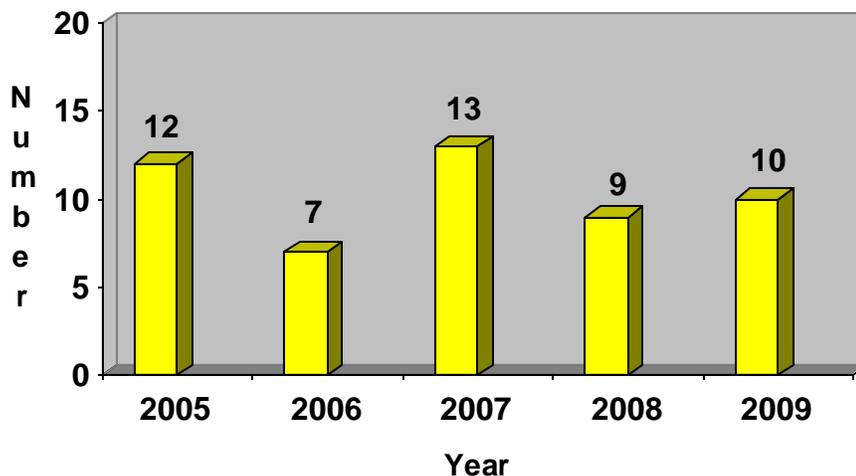
District of Columbia
Department of Health
State Center for Health Statistics
Research and Analysis Division
825 N. Capitol Street, NE
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2009

Fatal work injuries totaled 10 in 2009 for the District of Columbia, according to the District of Columbia Department of Health's Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This year's count of workplace fatalities was approximately one fourth less than the number recorded in 2007. Assaults and violent acts were the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities during 2009 in the District, with 6 deaths or 60 percent. The service providing industry accounted for 60 percent of the total workplace fatalities in the District of Columbia.

Chart 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries in the District of Columbia, 2005-2009



Key Characteristics of Fatal Work Injuries in 2009 in the District of Columbia:

- Men (7) accounted for most of the work-related fatalities in the District. Assaults and violent acts made up the majority of these fatalities. Three women were fatally injured on the job.
- Three of the six fatalities caused by assaults and violent acts were shootings.
- Workers 35-54 years old comprised 8 of the 10 fatalities in the District, representing 80 percent of work-related fatalities in 2009; three of the four fatal workplace injuries in the 35-44 age group occurred in assaults and violent acts.
- Seven of the workers who died on-the-job in the District worked for wages and salaries. Transportation incidents (which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities) and assaults and violent acts accounted for six of these death, three respectively.
- Forty percent of the workers who died on-the-job were Black, non-Hispanic.
- Three self-employed workers died in 2009. Assaults and violent acts accounted for all of these.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Background of the Program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), part of the BLS Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS) program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The CFOI program uses diverse state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

Beginning with 2009 data, the CFOI program began classifying industry using the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2007). Industry data from 2003 to 2008 were classified using the NAICS 2002. NAICS 2007 includes revisions across several sectors. The most significant revisions are in the information sector, particularly within telecommunications. For more information, go to <http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm>.

For technical information about and definitions for the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site here: http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9_a1.htm.